

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /138 W
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P R 301654Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1816

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: TRADE POLICY TEAM VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA - COLOMBIA

REF: STATE 185787

1. US MTN DEL (KNEPPER) DISCUSSED PROPOSED VISIT OF
AMBASSADOR YEUTTER TO BOGOTA WITH COLOMBIAN MTN DEL
CLARA LEON. (AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO IS ON VACATION
UNTIL MID-AUGUST.) COLOMBIAN MTN DEL NOTED GOC VIEWS
ON FOLLOWING MTN AND TRADE TOPICS.

(A) TROPICAL PRODUCTS - COLOMBIA DEL NOTED THERE
WAS LITTLE OF INTEREST TO COLOMBIA IN US TP OFFER AND
EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ONLY ONE MINOR PRODUCT
ON ITS SHORT REQUEST LIST (TSUS 165.55, OTHER FRUIT
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JUICES, EX-OUT FOR PASSION FRUIT JUICE) HAD BEEN

INCLUDED IN US TP OFFER. COLOMBIA DEL REPEATED GOC INTEREST IN IMPROVED ACCESS FOR TOBACCO AND PINEAPPLES IN US MARKET. US DEL NOTED THAT US HAD ADDED TO ITS INITIAL TP OFFER THE INCLUSION OF YAMS IN OFFER ON TSUS 137.8540, A PRODUCT OF SPECIAL TRADE INTEREST TO COLOMBIA (SEE MTN GENEVA 4516).

(B) FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT - COLOMBIA DEL SUPPORTED BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL FOR FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT, NOTING THAT SOME IN COLOMBIA BELIEVED IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN GATT BEFORE COLOMBIA COULD CONSIDER JOINING. MENTIONED NECESSITY FOR PART IV OF GATT TO BE WRITTEN INTO PARTS I-III TO PROVIDE FOR MORE DEROGATIONS FOR LDCS.

(C) SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES - COLOMBIAN DEL SUPPORTED BRAZILIAN PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA, NOTING NEED FOR LDCS TO SUBSIDIZE EXPORTS WHEN ESTABLISHING NEW MARKETS, BUT ACCEPTING CONCEPT OF PHASING OUT SUBSIDIES OVER TIME AS INDUSTRY AND NEW MARKETS BECOME ESTABLISHED.

(D) SAFEGUARDS - COLOMBIA DEL NOTED GATT ARTICLES WERE NOT CLEAR AND STATED HER BELIEF THAT COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE NOT ONLY SAFEGUARD TYPE ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER VARIOUS GATT ARTICLES, BUT OTHER SAFEGUARD-TYPE ACTIONS TAKEN OUTSIDE OF GATT FRAMEWORK AS WELL.

(E) STANDARDS CODE - COLOMBIA DEL NOTED INTEREST IN STANDARDS CODE, EXPRESSING DESIRE FOR RIGHT TO PRESENT VIEWS ON STANDARDS FORMULATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND INDICATING COLOMBIA PLANNED TO MAKE PROPOSALS DURING LATER MEETINGS. MENTIONED NECESSITY FOR S&D FOR LDCS, SUCH AS LONGER LEAD TIME TO ADJUST TO NEW STANDARDS.

(F) GATT MEMBERSHIP - COLOMBIA MTN DEL EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE IN COLOMBIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST TO MOVE FROM PROVISIONAL TO FULL GATT ACCESSION GIVEN INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO COLOMBIA OF PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. COLOMBIA DEL FELT FULL GATT MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT, PERMITTING COLOMBIA TO BE INCLUDED AS PARTICIPANT IN KEY GATT SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS, SUCH AS IN G-18, AND BEING AS INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ON NEW TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

(G) REGIONAL PREFERENCES - COLOMBIA DEL NOTED THAT COLOMBIA CONTINUED TO BE INTERESTED IN NORTH-SOUTH REGIONAL PREFERENCES IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE, WHICH HAD BEEN LONG-TERM COLOMBIAN POLICY INITIATIVE, WHICH WAS NOW BEGINNING TO BE SHARED BY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (UNSPECIFIED).

2. US MTN DEL COMMENTS: COLOMBIA MTN DEL (AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO) SERVES AS SPOKESMAN FOR ANDEAN GROUP IN MTN IN 1976. AS SUCH, COLOMBIA AND ANDEAN GROUPS SUPPORT POSITIONS TAKEN BY OTHER LDCS -- ESPECIALLY BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, MEXICO, AND INDIA -- AND DO NOT IN GENERAL PRESENT THEIR OWN UNIQUE PROPOSALS, BUT RATHER SUPPORT ELEMENTS OF PROPOSALS MADE BY OTHER LDCS. OTHER MTN RELATED ITEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS - US AND COLOMBIA MTN DELS HELD BILATERAL CONSULTATION ON QR NOTIFICATIONS BY EACH COUNTRY ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1975 (75 MTN GENEVA 7400). US DEL REQUESTED JULY 21, 1976 ADDITIONAL QR CONSULTATIONS WITH COLOMBIA ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, SOYBEAN MEAL, WINE, AND VEGETABLE PROTEINS SUBJECT TO COLOMBIA'S DISCRETIONARY LICENSING SYSTEM.

(B) GROUP AGRICULTURE - COLOMBIA HAS REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS WITH US UNDER PROCEDURES OF GROUP AGRICULTURE ON GRAPES, MELONS, SUGAR, HONEY AND BEANS. (MTN GENEVA 3958)

(C) CONSULAR FORMALITIES AND FEES - COLOMBIA EMPLOYS THESE DEVICES AND HAS SUPPORTED THEIR RETENTION DURING DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE IN NTM SUBGROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS. WALKER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, POLICIES, STANDARDS, CUSTOMS DUTIES, VISITS, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MTNGE06154
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760295-0320
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976075/aaaaadre.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 185787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE POLICY TEAM VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA - COLOMBIA
TAGS: ETRD, XM, CO, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006